



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

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Date: March 16, 2011

Chair
Phil Isenberg

To: Delta Stewardship Council Members

Members
Randy Fiorini
Gloria Gray
Patrick Johnston
Hank Nordhoff
Don Nottoli
Felicia Marcus

From: Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer

Executive Officer
P. Joseph Grindstaff

Subject: Meeting, March 24-25, 2011

The agenda for our thirteenth meeting, and supporting material, is attached. Some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting. I offer some brief comments on the agenda and materials here for your perusal.

The key part of Thursday's agenda, and overlapping into Friday, will be an in-depth discussion on the development of the Delta Plan. The second staff draft of the Plan will be made public on March 18, 2011. Its release is expected to generate considerable input from the public. A careful review of this draft by the public and the Council is vital. Other items on Thursday include presentations by the California Water Commission and the Delta Watermaster. Both will explain their role in helping implement the Delta Plan.

As you will recall, the third staff draft Delta Plan will be released mid-April (ahead of the April 28-29 meeting), and the fourth staff draft Delta Plan will be released in mid-May (ahead of the May 26-27 meeting). In order to meet the timeline approved by the Council, the members, at their May 26-27 meeting, must direct staff to make appropriate revisions to the fourth staff draft Plan, and then release the revised version of the Plan, along with the draft Environmental Impact Report, for public review and comment in accordance with CEQA.

Significant parts of Friday's agenda include the pending approval of the Proposal Solicitation Package and the Delta Independent Science Board's (ISB) Report. Lead scientist, Dr. Cliff Dahm, will finalize his funding request for thirteen research projects designed to advance understanding of the Delta. Then, Dr. Richard Norgaard, Chair of the Delta ISB, will discuss how the Delta ISB will report on the Delta ISB's review of the first staff draft of the Delta Plan.

California Water Commission Presentation (Agenda Item 6)

The California Water Commission has an important role in spending potential bond monies approved in the 2009 water/Delta bill package, among other duties. The agency's Vice Chair, Paul Kelley, will provide a brief presentation to the Council on the role of the California Water Commission, its 2011 work plan and provide a brief explanation of their commitment and role working with the Delta Stewardship Council in implementing the Delta Plan.

"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

Delta Watermaster Presentation (Agenda Item 7)

Craig M. Wilson, the Delta Watermaster, has recently drafted a report that was presented to the State Water Board on March 15, 2011 entitled: *The State Water Resources Control Board's Role in Implementing the Delta Plan*. Mr. Wilson will brief the Council on this report and engage in a discussion with the Council on the State Water Board's role in implementing the Delta Plan.

Delta Plan Development (Agenda Items 8 and 15)

The second staff draft of the Delta Plan will be posted on the DSC website on Friday, March 18, 2011. This second draft is designed to put key draft regulations and recommendations on the table for the Council to discuss and receive input from stakeholders and the public. Following the Council meetings, revisions will be made. Two subsequent preliminary staff drafts of the Delta Plan will be released in April and May, 2011. An official, public review draft Delta Plan and programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be released in June 2011 as part of the formal review process (release of the draft EIR for public comment). It is anticipated that subsequent drafts of the Plan may be necessary to respond to public comments, leading up to adoption of the final EIR and Delta Plan at the November meeting (in time to meet subsequent state regulatory requirements, and ultimately the January 1, 2012 statutory mandate).

Proposal Solicitation Package Approval (Agenda Item 13).

The Council will be asked to approve research grant funding recommendations for the 2010 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) in this action item from the Delta Science Program. The goal of the PSP is to invest in new scientific knowledge that will fundamentally advance the understanding of the complex environments/systems within the Council's jurisdiction to aid policy-makers and managers. About \$8 million from Prop 84 will be used to fund 13 research projects in four focused topic areas: Native Fish Biology and Ecology; Food Webs of Key Delta Species and their Relationship to Water Quality and Other Drivers; Coupled Hydrologic and Ecosystem Models; and Water and Ecosystem Management Decision Support System Development. The total requested funding is \$7,095,185.

Delta Independent Science Board Report (Agenda Item 14)

Dr. Richard Norgaard, Chair of the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB), will brief the Council on the Delta ISB's review of the first staff draft of the Delta Plan, accomplished in two March 2011 meetings. During the March 3-4 meeting, the Delta ISB discussed the first draft of the Delta Plan and began preparing its comments, which were finalized at the March 16, 2011 teleconference.

Our March meeting is once again being held within the legal boundaries of the Delta. It will be in the first floor Galleria of the West Sacramento City Hall. The address is 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento. If I can answer any questions or provide any information, please contact me at (916) 445-4500 or jgrindstaff@deltacouncil.ca.gov